

Sub E1
D2

--Fig. 8 is a flow chart illustrating the steps in the data providing method according to one embodiment of this invention. As shown in Fig. 8, in step 201, a purchaser makes a purchase request. In step 202, the third data of the purchaser, which is registered for every purchaser in the data providing system, is retrieved based on the second data recorded in the purchaser rewritable record medium. In step 203, an accounting operation for providing the purchaser with the first data, if the third data which is retrieved, is matched with the third data which is recorded in the purchaser rewritable record medium is performed. In step 204, the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data is recorded in the purchaser rewritable record medium. Finally, in step 205, the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished is registered in the purchaser rewritable record medium.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 42 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please replace claims 28-38, 40, 41 and 43-55 as follows:

Sub E2
D3

28. (Amended) A data providing method for providing a purchaser with a first data, a purchase request of which is made by the purchaser, from a data providing system, the data providing system comprising a data delivery portion for delivering the first data in order to provide the purchaser with the first data, and a data intermediate portion connected with the data delivery portion via a communication line, for intermediating between the data delivery portion and the purchaser, and the purchaser having a purchaser rewritable record medium in which the first data, a second data representing an identification information of the purchaser and a third data representing a purchase information of the first data can be recorded, by the data providing system, the method comprising: